



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2010

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## RIDLEY-THOMAS APPLAUDS APPOINTMENT OF RONALD L. BROWN AS PUBLIC DEFENDER

*Brown Will Be the First African American to Hold the Position*

**Los Angeles**—Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today applauded the appointment of Ronald L. Brown, a veteran in the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, to be the new head of the agency. Brown has served in the Public Defender's office for nearly 30 years, most recently as Assistant Public Defender.

"Ron Brown brings a deep knowledge of the Public Defender's office, a wealth of experience and a profound commitment to providing high-quality legal services to the poorest of the poor," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. "Ron is a well loved son of the Second District, and his journey from humble beginnings to today's appointment as Public Defender is a source of pride and inspiration."

Brown is the first African American to hold the position and brings a unique perspective to the job. Born in Utah to a working-class family of 10 children, Brown relocated with his family to South Los Angeles and for much of his childhood received food stamps and other public assistance. After earning his

undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California and his law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, Brown committed his life to public service and has worked for nearly 30 years to provide the same level of care and assistance that was shown to him during his childhood.

The Office of the Public Defender oversees nearly 800 attorneys and investigators who provide legal services to those who cannot afford to retain private counsel.

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